

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01
OMB-01 HA-05 SSM-03 SAA-01 AGRE-00 HEW-04 OES-09
OIC-02 /171 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2224
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: ECOSOC, EGEN
SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC - AGENDA ITEM 28 - DEBATE IN
THIRD COMMITTEE

REF: GENEVA 10847

1. DEBATE IN THIRD COMMITTEE ON ITEM 28, DECOLONIZATION,
ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, WAS HELD JULY 11
AND 12. MOST SPEAKERS WERE ARAB AND COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.
WORLD BANK AND SOME SPECIALIZED AGENCIES SPOKE. PLO
SPOKE AND ISRAELI REP DELIVERED RIGHT OF REPLY. SYRIA
ALSO USED ITS RIGHT OF REPLY IN STRONG STATEMENT
AGAINST U.S. POSITION, REPORTED REFTEL.

2. OBSERVER FROM PLO DECRIED CONTINUING AGGRESSION OF
ZIONIST OCCUPATION OF SOUTHERN LEBANON. NEGLIGENCE AND
ILL WILL WERE TO BLAME FOR LACK OF UNIVERSAL COMPLIANCE
WITH RESOLUTION 2026. AGENCIES SHOULD NOT ONLY OFFER
ASSISTANCE BUT SHOULD PLAY A MORE DYNAMIC ROLE IN THE
LIBERATION STRUGGLE. HE COMMENDED UNICEF, WHO, AND FAO
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PARTICULARLY, BUT EVEN THESE EFFORTS HAD NOT BEEN SUFFICI-
ENT. UNTIL PALESTINIAN STATE IS ESTABLISHED, NEEDS WILL
CONTINUE.

3. SYRIAN REP SPOKE ALONG THE SAME LINES, ASKING FOR
REASONS WHY ONLY SOME AGENCIES HAD REPORTED ON
THEIR COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WITH PLO. SOME OF REPORTS WERE

NOT SATISFACTORY, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE THEY DID NOT SPECIFY PLO. HE COMMENDED UNESCO, ECWA, UNDP, FAO, AND WHO FOR THEIR EFFORTS.

5. USSR DEL COMMENDED UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES WHICH HAVE COMPLIED WITH UN RESOLUTION 2100 TO DISPENSE AID TO PALESTINIAN PEOPLE THROUGH PLO, AND CHASTIZED THOSE AGENCIES WHICH HAVE NOT. HE URGED ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE. GDR OBSERVER FOLLOWED IN THE SAME VEIN, ADDING THAT PLO IS THE SOLE LEGITIMATE REP OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. POLISH DEL SPECIFICALLY COMMENDED UNDP, FAO, UNIDO, UNESCO AND ECWA FOR COMPLYING WITH GA RES. HE CRITICIZED SOME AGENCIES FOR NEGLECTING TO REPORT TO SYG ON PROGRESS MADE IN COMPLIANCE WITH DIRECTIVES OF THE RES.

6. CHINA DEL SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. ZIONIST EXPANSION AND AGRESSION WAS BEING CARRIED OUT WITH ASSISTANCE AND INTERVENTION FROM AN UNNAMED SUPERPOWER. THIS WAS REGRETTABLE. U.N. AGENCIES COULD AND SHOULD DO MORE TO HELP THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IN THEIR STRUGGLE.

7. SUDAN, ALGERIA, TUNISIA, QATAR, AND UNITED ARAB EMIRATES REPS ALL SPOKE TO DECOLONIALIZATION GENERALLY, DRAWING PARALLELS BETWEEN MIDEAST SITUATION AND THAT IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOUTH AFRICA. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES SHOULD INCREASE THEIR COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN BOTH PLACES. OBSERVER FROM QATAR SAID THAT MORAL AND MATERIAL AID SHOULD BE PROVIDED IN BOTH REGIONS. ALGERIAN REP REPEATED ASSERTION THAT PLO WAS SOLE LEGITIMATE REP OF PALESTINIANS AND THAT AID TO PALESTINIANS SHOULD THEREFORE BE PROVIDED THROUGH PLO.

8. CUBAN REP REITERATED THAT PLO WAS SOLE REP OF PALESTINIANS AND CALLED FOR FURTHER COMPLIANCE BY SPECIALIZED AGENCIES WITH NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. TANZANIAN COMMENDED STATEMENT OF PLO OBSERVER AND JOINED IN CALL FOR GREATER EFFORTS TO BE MADE BY SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. LIBYAN OBSERVER EXPRESSED REGRET THAT RESOLUTIONS APPLYING TO SOUTHERN AFRICA AND TO PALESTINE HAD BEEN TREATED SEPARATELY. THEY WERE AND SHOULD BE DEALT WITH AS ONE ISSUE. HE RECALLED THE RACISM/ZIONISM RESOLUTION. HE FURTHER HOPED THAT THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES WOULD BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN THEIR ASSISTANCE TO ALL NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. DELS FROM IRAN AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC GAVE VERY BRIEF STATEMENTS URGING FURTHER COOPERATION BY AGENCIES, IRAN SPECIFYING

THAT THIS AID SHOULD MEET SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC NEEDS OF
PALESTINIANS. YUGOSLAV REP SINGLED UNESCO OUT FOR
PARTICULAR PRAISE.

9. PARTICIPANTS FROM WIPO, UNEP, AND WORLD BANK SPOKE ON
THEIR OWN BEHALF. WIPO AND UNEP RESPONDED TO
CRITICISM BY IRAQ CITING THEIR ORGANIZATIONS OFFERS OF
ASSISTANCE. WORLD BANK CITED RESTRAINTS ON ITS ACTIVITIES
IMPOSED BY ITS CHARTER. BANK CANNOT LEND TO PALESTINIANS.
HOWEVER, BANK HAD INFORMED HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
OF ITS WILLINGNESS TO FINANCE PROGRAMS OF HOST GOVERNMENTS
FOR BENEFIT OF REFUGEES.

10. U.S. STATEMENT AND SYRIAN RIGHT OF REPLY REPORTED
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2225
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REFTEL.

11. PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING WHICH IS PARA 4.

4. OBSERVER FROM ISRAEL SAID THAT EXTRANEIOUS POLITICAL

MOTIVES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING A DISCUSSION OF THIS
SORT BEFORE THE COUNCIL. ISRAEL HAD NO OBJECTION TO U.N.
SYSTEM IDENTIFYING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC NEEDS OF
PALESTINIAN REFUGEES PROVIDING THAT THIS WAS DONE THROUGH
UNRWA. HOWEVER, PLO'S AVOWED OBJECTIVE WAS DESTRUCTION
OF ISRAEL AND THEREFORE ISRAEL OPPOSED ANY COOPERATION OR
COLLABORATION EXTENDED TO PLO. REGARDLESS, ECOSOC WAS AN
INAPPROPRIATE FORUM FOR SUCH A DISCUSSION AND THESE
ISSUES SHOULD BE DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE. VANDEN HEUVEL

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